IRS TAX TIP 2002-63

OPTIONS FOR PAYING YOUR TAXES

If you do not pay your taxes when due, you may have to pay a failure-to-pay penalty. To avoid this penalty, the IRS suggests several ways to pay your taxes. You can pay by check, money order or credit card or use the direct debit method.

CHECK OR MONEY ORDER

If you choose to pay by check or money order, make it out to "United States Treasury." Please show your correct name, address, Social Security number, daytime telephone number and the tax year and form number on the front of your check or money order.

CREDIT CARD

You can charge your taxes on your American Express, MasterCard, Visa or Discover Card. To pay by credit card, call one of the service providers listed below and follow the recorded instructions. You can also pay by credit card over the Internet using the service provider's Web site. These service providers charge a convenience fee based on the amount you are paying. Do not add the convenience fee to your tax payment.

Official Payments Corporation

Phone 1-800-2PAY-TAX (1-800-272-9829)

Web Site www.officialpayments.com

PhoneCharge, Inc.

Phone 1-888-ALL-TAXX (1-888-255-8299)

Web Site www.1888ALLTAXX.com

DIRECT DEBIT

You can file electronically and pay in a single step by authorizing a direct debit (automatic withdrawal) from your checking or savings account. This option is available through tax software packages, tax professionals and TeleFile. You will need to have your account number, your financial institution's routing transit number and account type (checking or savings). You can schedule the payment for any future date up to and including the April 15 return due date.

For more information about filing and paying your taxes, refer to Form 1040 or Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax." You may request a copy of the form or publication by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676) or you may download them from the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov. You may also call the IRS's toll-free customer assistance line at 1-800-829-1040, available from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. weekdays and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturdays through April 13.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members of the news media can subscribe to IRS Tax Tips by sending an e-mail to *TaxTips@irs.gov . Please e-mail this address if you want to be removed from the mailing list. Back issues of Tax Tips also can be accessed at www.irs.gov by checking at the bottom of the directory under the News Releases and Fact Sheets. If you need additional information, contact your local IRS Media Relations office or call 202-622-4000.